07-29-

Director: John J. Love

Art Unit: 2164

Attorney Docket 1

Applicant: Serial No.:

Mueller

09/193,889

Filed:

November 18, 1998

Title:

MOISTURE ACTIVATED REINFORCEMENT STRING AND TEAR

OPENING TAPES FOR CORRUGATED AND CARTON STOCK

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CONTAINERS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 **BOX PETITIONS**

AUG 0 5 2002

GROUP 3600

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION ON PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.181(a) REQUESTING WITHDRAWAL OF THE HOLDING OF **ABANDONMENT**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Director's Decision to Dismiss the Petition Under 37 CFR 1.181(a) Requesting Withdrawal Of The Holding Of Abandonment filed by Applicants on January 16, 2002.

Remarks

The May 28, 2002 Decision on Petition Under 37 CFR 1.181(a) Requesting Withdrawal Of The Holding Of Abandonment (The Director's Decision), wherein Applicants' Petition was dismissed, is based upon the mistaken belief that the Notice of Abandonment was issued for Applicants' failure to file a timely response to the March 27, 2000 Office action issued in the above-captioned application. The November 7, 2001 Notice of Abandonment stated that the application was abandoned for failure to file a timely response to the November 16, 2000 Office Action –not the March 27, 2000 Office action. A copy of the November 7, 2001 Notice of Abandonment is attached at Tab 1.

Certificate of Express Mailing

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10 I certify that this application is being deposited on the date indicated below with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.

ET989664873US Express Mail Mailing Label No.

July 26, 2002

Date of Deposit

Signature of Person Mailing Application

Allison Johnson

Printed Name of Person Mailing Application

Since it appears from the Director's Decision that the Patent Office intended to base the holding of abandonment on Applicants' failure to submit a timely response to the March 27, 2000 Office action, and since Applicants have not been given the opportunity to address this basis for the holding of abandonment, Applicants respectfully request Reconsideration of Applicants' Petition.

M.P.E.P. 711.03(c) provides that Applicants may submit a petition to withdraw a holding of abandonment based on the failure to receive an Office action. Applicants did not receive the March 27, 2000 Office action in the mail prior to the point at which the application would have become abandoned. A copy of the H.B. Fuller Company "H.B. Fuller" docket record for the 09/193,889 application is attached at Tab 2. If the March 27, 2000 Office action had been received, the docket would have included an entry entitled, "3 MON RESPONSE DUE" under the column entitled, "All Actions Due," and a June 27, 2000 entry under the column entitled, "Due Date." The docket also would have included the entries "1 MON EXTENSION," "2 MON EXTENSION," and "6 MON FINAL" and corresponding due dates for each of these entries. A review of the docket shows that there are no entries that would have corresponded to the March 27, 2000 Office action. Applicants note that there are entries corresponding to the November 16, 2000 Office action including, e.g., the three month response having a due date of February 16, 2001 and a "Response Sent" date of March 16, 2001.

The H.B. Fuller file history for the above-captioned application maintained at H.B. Fuller does not contain the original March 27, 2000 Office action. The file history does, however, contain a facsimile copy of the March 27, 2000 Office action, which is attached at Tab 3. The facsimile copy includes a cover sheet and a transmission line, both of which reflect a date of October 18, 2000.

Applicants believe that the failure to receive the original March 27, 2000 Office action stems from the wrong correspondence address being associated with the application. The patent application as filed identified the following correspondence address: H.B. Fuller Company, Patent Department, 1200 Willow Lake Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55110-5101. This address is H.B. Fuller's street address.

In September 1996, H.B. Fuller changed its mailing address from the street address to a post office box address, i.e., H.B. Fuller Company, 1200 Willow Lake

Boulevard, Box 64683, St. Paul, MN 55164-0683 (see Declaration of Julie Post, para. 2, which is attached at Tab 4). From that point forward all H.B. Fuller mail was to be sent to the post office box address. H.B. Fuller encountered many problems receiving mail as a result of the mailing address change (see Declaration of Julie Post, para. 2). At some point thereafter the Post Office agreed to allow H.B. Fuller to keep the street address for receiving mail. <u>Id</u>.

On July 6, 2000, Ms. Julie Post filed a Change of Attorney or Agent's Address In Application (37 CFR 1.8(a)) by facsimile transmission with the United States Patent Office referencing the above-captioned application serial number and including the following correspondence address: H.B. Fuller Company, Patent Department, 1200 Willow Lake Blvd., Box 64683, St. Paul, MN 55164-0683. The Change of Address was directed to the attention of Denise Boyd. The fax cover sheet refers to a July 5, 2000 telephone conversation between Ms. Boyd and Ms. Fisher, a former H.B. Fuller patent agent, regarding the Change of Address for the above-captioned application. A copy of the fax cover sheet, the Change of Attorney or Agent's Address In Application (37 CFR 1.8(a)), the Communication Result Report, and a return receipt postcard reflecting a simultaneous submission by mail are attached at Tab 4. The Communication Result Report reflects the successful transmission of two pages. The return receipt postcard includes a U.S.P.T.O. date stamp of July 10, 2000 and an H.B. Fuller date stamp of July 14, 2000.

On August 31, 2000, Ms. Fischer terminated her employment with H.B. Fuller.

On October 18, 2000, Denise L. Boyd of the U.S.P.T.O. sent a cover sheet and a copy of the March 27, 2000 Office action by facsimile transmission to Ms. Fischer, a copy of which is attached at Tab 3. The facsimile copy of the March 27, 2000 Office action reflects that the action was mailed to the H.B. Fuller street address, i.e., it did not include a post office box and the zip code was incorrect.

On November 16, 2000, the Patent Office issued a nonfinal Office Action. By November 16th the Post Office had agreed to deliver mail that was addressed to the H.B. Fuller street address and H.B. Fuller received the November 16th Office action. The November 16th Office action was identical to the March 27, 2000 Office action with the exception that the date on the cover page was different. The November 16th Office action

did not refer to the status of the March 27, 2000 Office action and there was no indication that the application was deemed abandoned. According to the Director's Decision, the Examiner had no authority to mail this Office action.

On March 16, 2001, Applicants submitted a timely response to the November 16, 2000 Office action by facsimile transmission (see November 19, 2001 Petition Under 37 Cfr 1.181(A) Requesting Withdrawal of The Holding of Abandonment, Tabs 1-4).

On November 7, 2001, Applicants received a Notice of Abandonment for failure to file a timely response to the **November 16, 2000** Office action --not the March 27, 2000 Office action.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office to

- 1) find that Applicants failed to receive the March 27, 2000 Office action prior to the time at which the application became abandoned,
- 2) grant Applicants' Petition to Withdraw the Holding of Abandonment and reinstate the application; and
- 3) accept the Mach 16, 2001 Amendment as a timely response to the March 27, 2000 Office action.

The Director is invited to telephone the undersigned if a telephone conference would facilitate resolution of this matter.

Please charge any fees or credit any over payments to Deposit Account No. 06-2241.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: <u>July 2002</u>

Allison Johnson Reg. No. 36,173

On Behalf of H.B. Fuller Company

Allison Johnson, P.A. 6016 Logan Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55419 Telephone (612) 861-8621 Facsimile (612) 861-8628





UNITED ST. S DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Patent and Trademark Office

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

Washington, D.C. 20231

FIRST NAMED INVENTOR

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

09/193,889

11/18/98

MUELLER

G

ER-035-US-01

TM02/1107

EXAMINER

H.B. FULLER COMPANY PATENT DEPARTMENT 1200 WILLOW LAKE BOULEVARD

ART UNIT

WEISBERGER, R PAPER NUMBER

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ST PAUL MN 55164-0683

2164 DATE MAILED:

11/07/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

NOV 16 2001 H.B. FULLER PATENT DEPT.

RECEIVED
AUG 0 5 2002
GROUP 3600

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Nation of Abandonmant	09/193,889	MUELLER ET AL.
Notice of Abandonment	Examiner	Art Unit RECEIVED
	Rich Weisberge	2164
The MAILING DATE of this communication app	ears on the cover sheet with the c	orrespondence add 5.0 5 2002
This application is abandoned in view of:		GROUP 360
 Applicant's failure to timely file a proper reply to the Office (a) ☐ A reply was received on (with a Certificate of N period for reply (including a total extension of time of 	Mailing or Transmission dated month(s)) which expired on _), which is after the expiration of the
(b) A proposed reply was received on, but it does		
(A proper reply under 37 CRF 1.113 to a final rejection application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37	d Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee);	mendment which places the or (3) a timely filed Request for
- (c) No reply has been received.		
2. Applicant's failure to timely pay the required issue fee an from the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance (PTOL-8	35).	
(a) The issue fee and publication fee, if applicable, was , which is after the expiration of the statutory p Allowance.		
(b) The submitted fee of \$ is insufficient. A balanc	e of \$ is due.	
The issue fee required by 37 CFR 1.18 is \$	The publication fee, if required by 37	CFR 1.18(d), is \$
(c) \square The issue fee and publication fee, if applicable, has n	ot been received.	
 Applicant's failure to timely file new formal drawings as re Allowability (PTO-37). 	quired by, and within the three-montl	h period set in, the Notice of
 (a) Proposed new formal drawings were received on after the expiration of the period for reply. 	(with a Certificate of Mailing or Tr	ansmission dated), which is
(b) The proposed new formal drawings filed on are	e not acceptable and the period for re	eply has expired.
(c) ☐ No proposed new formal drawings have been receive	d.	
4. The letter of express abandonment which is signed by the the applicants.	e attorney or agent of record, the ass	signee of the entire interest, or all of
 The letter of express abandonment which is signed by ar 1.34(a)) upon the filing of a continuing application. 	n attorney.or agent (acting.in a repres	sentative capacity under 37 CFR
 The decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interfer of the decision has expired and there are no allowed clair 		se the period for seeking court review
7. The reason(s) below:	VINCENT M	Me
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H.B. FULLER PATENT DEPT.		

JUL 2 6 2002 COLINTry Applications

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H.B Fuller #:	96-035		Count	ry: US	1	SubCase	: 01			
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Case Type:	CIP		A	pplication S	Status:	Pending	.,			
Application Number:	09/1938	389		Filing	Date:	18-Nov-1998				
Patent Number:				Issue	Date:]			
Publication Number:	The state of the s		F	Publication	Date:				1	
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GROUP FAX NUMBER:703-305-3599

GROUP PHONE NUMBER:703-308-0(

GROUP 1100 FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 10/18/00

APPL. NO.

TO: Carolyn Fischer

FAX NUMBER:

PHONE NUMBER:

703-38-0355

FROM: Denise L-Boyd

MESSAGE: SN 09/193,889

(103,304, Ode)

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS ONE: 7

IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED ALL PAGES OR HAVE OTHER DIFFICULTIES WITH THIS FACSIMILE PLEASE CONTACT THIS OFFICE BY USING THE PHONE NUMBER PRINTED ABOVE. THANK YOU...

OCT 18 2000

H.B. FULLER PATENT DEPT.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS Washington, D.C. 20231

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVE	VTOR	ATTC	RNEY DOCKET NO.
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DATE MAILED

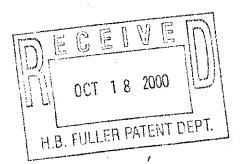
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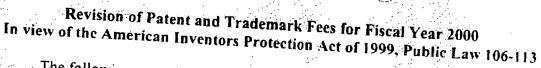
Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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ANG 05 2002
GROUP 3600





The following amendments to the fee amounts in 37 CFR 1.16, 1.20, and 1.492 shown below will be effective on December 29, 1999:

Patent Fees:

- 37 CFR	-			
Sec.	Description	Cum		
1.16(a) 1.16(a) 1.16(a) 1.16(h) 1.16(h) 1.16(h) 1.16(h) 1.20(e) 1.20(e) 1.492(a)(2)	Basic filing fee – Utility Basic filing fee – Utility (Sn Basic filing fee – Utility (CP Basic filing fee – Utility (CP Reissue filing fee Reissue filing fee (Small Ent Reissue filing fee (CPA) Reissue filing fee (CPA) (Sm Maintenance fee – due at 3.5 Maintenance fee – due at 3.5 ISA - U.S. (Small Entity)	Ame \$760 \$380 \$A) \$380 \$A) (Small Entity) \$380 \$760 \$380 \$760 \$380 \$760 \$380 \$760 \$380	\$6 \$3 \$6 \$3 \$69 \$34 \$69 \$34 \$83 \$41 \$696	2 29 90) 90 45 90 45 90 45 90 15 0 5 0 5
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The following amendments to the fee amounts in 37 CFR 1.17 and 2.6 shown below will be effective on January 10, 2000:

Patent Fees:

37 CFR			
Sec.	Description		
1.17(s)	Filing a submission after fin. Filing a submission after fin. (Small Entity) Per additional invention to be per additional invention to be (Small Entity)	An al rejection (1.129(a)) \$76 al rejection (1.129(a)) \$38	0 \$345

Trademark Fees:

Sec.	Description		ent Fee Ne	
2.6(a)(5) 2.6(a)(13) 2.6(a)(16)	Application for registration, per class Extension for filing Statement of Use. Application for renewal, per class Filing section 15 affidavit, per class Petition for cancellation, per class Notice of opposition, per class	Amo	lint	W Fee Amount Seewe 1 to 001 \$325 \$150 \$400 \$200 \$300 \$300

Patent and trademark customers are responsible for paying the correct fee amounts. We advise our customers to refer to the official PTO Web site at www.uspto.gov or contact the PTO General Information Services Division at (703) 308-4357 or (800) PTO-9199 for the most current fee amounts and information.

045 0 11	Application No. 09/193,889	Applicant	(a)	
Office Action Summary	Examiner		Mueller e	tai.
	Weisberger Ric		Group Art Unit 1774	
Responsive to communication(s) filed on				
THAL.			_	•
Since this application is in condition for allowance exin accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quay! A shortened statutory period for response to this action is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. If application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). E. 37 CFR 1.136(a).	is set to expire thr	PP Month	ulm) market a	
Disposition of Claims			,	3 01
X Claim(s) 1-18				
Of the above, claim(s) 1-16		is/are	pending in the ap	plication.
Of the above, claim(s) <u>1-16</u> Claim(s)		is/are w	ithdrawn from co	onsideration.
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☐ Claim(s) ☐ Claims ☐ Claims Application Papers				
☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Dr ☐ The drawing(s) filed on	objected to by the Example is Experient is Experient is Experient is Experient is Experient in Example is Example 1. S. C. § Set of the priority document in Example 1. S. C. § Set of the International Bureautionity under 35 U.S.C. In No(s).	niner. Yoved 119(a)-(d) ments have	·	SEIVED JUG 0 5 2002 ROUP 360
Patent Application, PTO-152				
ent and Trademark Office	THE FOLLOWING PAG	ES		

Page 2

Application/Control Number: 09/193,889

Art Unit: 1774

- Claims 1-15 are, drawn to a continuous fibrous composite, classified in class 428, subclass 367.
- 2. Claims 16, drawn to a container, classified in class, subclass.
- Claims 17-18 are, drawn to a method of reinforcing a container, classified in class
 229, subclass 239.
- 1. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons: Inventions I and II and III are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions have different effects.
- 2. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
- 3. During a telephone conversation with Carolyn Fisher on March 24 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of group III, claims 17-18. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 1-16 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.
- 4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently

Application/Control Number: 09/193,889

Page 3

Art Unit: 1774

named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the 5. basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- Claims 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wosaba et al. 6. 4784271.

The prior art invention teaches a shipping carton or container that can be readily opened and converted into a display tray without having to use a knife or other sharp instrument. The carton is formed from a blank having four sidewalls and connected top and bottom end panels. The sidewalls have a line of severance running circumferentially around the carton that defines a continuous butt joint separating the carton into a top cover section and a bottom tray section. A wide tape having a narrow tear filament or strip attached to its inner surface is adhesively attached to the sidewalls' outer surface such that it bridges the butt joint and holds the carton's top

Page 4

Application/Control Number: 09/193,889

Art Unit: 1774

and bottom sections together, the tear strip being substantially superimposed over the butt joint. Pulling the tear filament neatly splits the wide tape and separates the carton's top and bottom sections. Preferably, one of the carton's sidewalls is provided with an access aperture to make it easier to grasp the end of the tear filament therein. The tape is secured to the sidewalls by using, a pressure-sensitive heat-activated or water-activated adhesive, and can be made from a wide variety of materials such as paper; a polyolefin such as polypropylene, polyethylene, or polybutalene; nylon; or a polyester such as polyethylene terepthalate (PET) or Mylar.RTM..

RICHARD WEISBERGER PRIMARY EXAMINER

Tel. 703-308-4408

Attorney Docket No.: ER-035-US-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Mueller

Art Unit: 2164

Serial No.:

09/193,889

Director: John J. Love

Filod:

November 18, 1998

Title:

MOISTURE ACTIVATED REINFORCEMENT STRING AND TEAR

RECEIVED

ANG O 5 2002

GROUP 3600 OPENING TAPES FOR CORRUGATED AND CARTON STOCK

CONTAINERS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 **BOX PETITIONS**

DECLARATION OF JULIE POST

I, Julic Post, state and declare as follows:

- 1. I have been an employee in the Patent Department of the H.B. Fuller Company "H.B. Fuller" for 11 years.
- 2. On information and belief, in September, 1996, H.B. Fuller changed its mailing address from a street address to a post office box address, i.e., from H.B. Fuller Company, 1200 Willow Lake Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55110-5101 to H.B. Fuller Company, 1200 Willow Lake Boulevard, Box 64683, St. Paul, MN 55164-0683. After H.B. Fuller changed its mailing address to a post office box, the H.B. Fuller patent department began having problems receiving mail. On information and belief, at some point thereafter, H.B. Fuller requested, and the Post Office agreed, that mail addressed H.B. Fuller's street address would be delivered to H.B. Fuller instead of being returned to the sender.
- 3. I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the

validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent on which this statement is directed.

Further I declare not.

Date: 7

Julie Post

Patent Paralegal

H.B. Fuller Company

St. Paul, Minnesota





July 6, 2000

Patent Department

1200 Willow Lake Boulevard P.O. Box 64683

St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0683 Phone:

Fax:

651-236-5304

651-236-5126

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ANG 0 5 2002

GROUP 3600

SHEET COVER

Attention:

Denise Boyd

Facsimile number:

703-872-9093

Subject:

Change of Attorney Or Agent's Address In Application (37 CFR 1.8(a))

Application no. 09/193,889

HBF: ER-035-US-01

Number of pages including this one:

If you had problems receiving this transmission, please contact Julie Post @ 651-236-5603

Dear Ms. Boyd,

In reply to yesterdays phone conversation with Carolyn Fischer, attached please find fax copy of Change of Attorney Or Agent's Address In Application (37 CFR 1.8(a)).

We will also deposit this document in the U.S. Mail.

Respectfully submitted,

for Carolyn A. Fischer Patent Agent 39,091 H.B. Fuller Company

(651) 236-5304

Docket No. Change Of Attorney Or Agent's Address In Application (37,CIPR 1.8Fa)) ER-035-US-01 In Re Application Of: JUL 2 6 2002 Greg S. Mueller, Sharf U. Ahmed Group Art Unit Examiner Film Detent Serial No. 1772 ²11/18/98 09/193,889 MOISTURE ACTIVATED REINFORCEMENT STRING AND TEAR OPENING TAPES FOR Invention: CORRUGATED AND CARTONSTOCK CONTAINERS TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS Please send all correspondence for this application to: H.B. Fuller Company RECEIVED 3600 GROUP 3600 **Patent Department** 1200 Willow Lake Blvd. Box 64683 St. Paul, Minnestoa 55164-0683 **United States of America** Please direct all telephone calls to: Carolyn A. Fischer at 6 51-236-5304 Dated: July 6, 2000 Signature of Attorney or Agent of Record Carolyn A. Fischer, Agent Reg. No. 39,091 certify that this document is being deposited on H.B. Fuller Company with the U.S. Postal Service as first عا بها Patent Department class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 1200 Willow Lake Blvd. 20231. Box 64683

11.11.....

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Registration Number & Address of Attorney or Agent of Record

St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0683 United States of America

P2F/REV01

of Person Mailing Correspondence

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

CATION RESULT REPORT (JUL. 6.20)

TTI HBF WLT-B2 PATENTS #651-236-5126

/9:23AM)*

FILE MODE

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RESULT

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P. 2/2



REASON FOR ERROR -1) HANG UP OR LINE FAIL -3) NO ANSWER

E-2) BUSY E-4) NO FACSIMILE CONNECTION

July 6, 200 RECEIVED.

AUG 0 5 2002

GROUP 3600

H.B. Fuller Company World Headquarters

Patent Department

1200 Willow Lake Boulevard P.O. Box 64683 St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0683

Phone:

651-236-5304

Fax:

651-236-5126

COVER SHEET

Attention:

Denise Boyd

Facsimile number:

703-872-9093

Subject:

Change of Attorney Or Agent's Address In Application (37 CFR 1.8(a))

Application no. 09/193,889

HBF: ER-035-US-01

Number of pages including this one:

If you had problems receiving this transmission, please contact Julie Post @ 651-236-5603 **神唯古本体本本体本本本本本本本体,在中国本体,在一个工作**

Dear Ms. Boyd.

